

RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 263

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville is a municipal entity in Alabama within Madison County that operates a city-owned not for profit public utility doing business as Huntsville Utilities to provide electricity to all Madison County residents and water and natural gas to Huntsville customers; and

WHEREAS, the city of Huntsville began researching the use of electricity for the community in 1887, the Huntsville Electric Company was founded and began delivering electric power to city residents. By 1900 most residents discontinued their use of standby oil lamps. In 1913 Huntsville Railway, Light and Power Company purchased the electric system and began distributing electricity throughout Huntsville city streets. By 1915, Alabama Power Company purchased the electric system and improved the electric power lines although the city continued to generate electricity from a steam plant. Beginning in 1919, Huntsville was connected to an electric transmission network which drew hydro power from dams and rivers.

WHEREAS, Huntsville Utilities was formerly organized in its present form as a result of the May 7, 1940 acquisition of the electric assets in Madison County belonging to Alabama Power which were sold to The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as a result of the 1933 "New Deal" of President Roosevelt to provide for the economic development of areas along the Tennessee River. Huntsville Utilities became a local power company to purchase electricity from TVA and the city council of Huntsville created the Huntsville Electric Utility Board and appointed the first members to govern the newly created municipal system; and

WHEREAS, Huntsville Utilities has the distinction of operating Alabama's first public water system founded in 1823 by Hunter Peel after John Hunt settled near Big Spring Park and is the oldest water system west of the Appalachians. Water system expansion in Huntsville was the result of Dr. Fearn's progressive future planning in 1836 as Huntsville Waterworks relied on Big Spring as its water source and hollowed cedar logs as pipes to transport water that was stored in wooden reservoir tanks. In 1858 Dr. Fearn sold Huntsville Waterworks to the City of Huntsville and the water system began operations as a municipal organization that was later given to Huntsville Utilities to manage in 1954; and

WHEREAS, the Huntsville City Council invested in the original natural gas works plant owned by Dr. F.H. Newman in 1856 and later purchased the full operating rights from the Alabama Gas Corporation in 1950 to distribute natural gas to Huntsville citizens. From 1856 until 1910 the Huntsville square was lit with 8 gas lamps on posts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Huntsville Council, as the elected officials of Huntsville, has oversight of Huntsville Utilities, the governance

is handled by three separate boards of directors, the Huntsville Electric Utility Board, the Huntsville Water Works Board and the Huntsville Natural Gas Board. The Water Works and Natural Gas Boards share members. Currently, Huntsville Utilities is governed by Electric Board Members: Mr. Ronald W. Boles, Mr. D. Thomas Winstead, and Mr. George A. Moore; Water Works & Natural Gas Board Members: Dr. James S. Wall, Jr., Dr. Dorothy W. Huston, and Mr. Stanley Statum; and

WHEREAS, Huntsville Utilities has been operating in its current form since 1940, there have been just four leaders, Mr. Karl A. Woltersdorf (1940-1965), Mr. Edward E. Cobb (1965-1987), Mr. William C. Pippin (1987-2014), and Mr. Jay C. Stowe (2014-Present) to lead the company of approximately 625 employees that service 176,000 electric customers, 90,000 water customers, and 50,000 natural gas customers. Huntsville Utilities President & CEO Jay Stowe is supported by the administrative leadership of Mr. Tony Owens, Vice President of Operations; Mr. John Olshefski, Vice President of Customer Care; Mr. Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer; and Mrs. Janice Capshaw, Director of Human Resources; and

WHEREAS, Huntsville Utilities celebrates their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of providing low-cost and reliable utility services to their customers with a mission of adding value to the community. Huntsville Utilities vision, "To be the best utility in the country," is evidence by the constant infrastructure and system upgrades and improvements made as they execute their value statement of, "doing what is best for customers, employees and operations; and

WHEREAS, since 1940 Huntsville Utilities has served the Huntsville/Madison County community for 75 years, they do so each day with approximately 96 electric substations operating nearly 4,780 miles of electric wires, 1300 miles of natural gas pipes and 1,400 miles of water main lines. Huntsville Utilities is critically important to the quality of life that Huntsville/Madison County residents enjoy each as utility infrastructure sustains our community; and

WHEREAS, Huntsville Utilities' has a proud group of retirees and a dedicated team of current employees, the planning of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities were given to the Public Relations/Communications Department with Mr. Gary T. Whitley, Jr., leading the committee with support from Mr. Joe Gherdes, Ms. Deborah Hudson, Dr. Harry Hobbs, Mrs. Niki Butler and Mrs. Amanda Kemp.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city of Huntsville commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Huntsville Utilities in Huntsville Alabama; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 in the city of Huntsville shall be recognized as Huntsville Utilities and TVA Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to Huntsville Utilities, the City of Huntsville official archives, and a copy placed in the official archives of Madison County, Alabama.

ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2015.

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President of the City Council  
Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2015.

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Mayor  
Huntsville, Alabama